Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass is a native Alabamian. He attended elementary and secondary school in Madison, Alabama. He graduated from Bob Jones High School in 1975 with top honors in History and Government. He attended Alabama A&M University where he graduated with honors in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Political Science. Later, he went on to take his Master's of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall of Crozer Theological Seminary in 1985 and 1995 respectively. He also earned his New York State Teaching Certification from St. John Fisher's College in Rochester, New York and taught for two years in the Rochester City School District.

Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass is a well sought after teacher, preacher, and workshop leader. He serves as adjunct professor at the Rochester Center of Theological and Biblical Studies where he teaches Church Administration and History. Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass is known as "a pastor's pastor." He has devoted much of his energy to mentoring seminary students. Many of those of whom he has mentored have gone on to become excellent pastors themselves.

Dr. Douglass has a list of awards and honors which includes Service Awards from the City of Madison, Alabama, Second Baptist Church Mumford, Holy Trinity Baptist Church; a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Postal Service, State of New York Unified Court System and Earl Street Neighborhood Association. Rev. Douglass' biography is listed in the National Dean's list and the Outstanding Young Men of America directories. He is the winner of the Democrat and Chronicle's Golden Pen Award. Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass served as interim pastor from October 1999 until November 2000 when he was elected senior pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church. A Church with a strong emphasis on social ministry, Zion Hill seeks to make the gospel relevant beyond its four walls.

Rev. Dr. Douglass is married to Grace Twitty-Douglass and they have two adult children, Grace Elizabeth and Julius Richard.